



# Human Reproduction Reloaded | H2R

A Research Project of the University of Zurich: Research  
Agenda on Child's Right to Identity in Assisted  
Reproductive Technology

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# The Research Project Human Reproduction Reloaded | H2R

- **Started in January 2021 and will last for eight years**
- **Seeks to understand and provide policy guidance on the societal impact and legal challenges of rapidly changing medical technology on human reproduction.** Focus on **Switzerland, but also other countries and the international level**
- **Six faculties involved:** Faculty of Law (host) | Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences | Faculty of Medicine | Faculty of Science | Faculty of Theology | Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics
- **Data Centre** - an information and discussion hub meant to foster interdisciplinarity, enabling the researchers involved to collaborate, make demands for or share information and data
- Led by **Prof. Andrea Büchler**, chair in **Private and Comparative Law at the University of Zurich** and president of the National Advisory Committee on Biomedical Ethics in Switzerland



# Research Agenda on Child's Right to Identity in Assisted Reproductive Technology: Work on Donor-Conceived Persons





# Areas of Inquiry on Donor-Conceived Persons and their Identity

- Experiences regarding **disclosure of being donor-conceived** (age of disclosure, modalities, what happened after the disclosure, how did this affect their sense of identity etc)
- Manner of **relating to the donor** (e.g. what are the terms used to refer to the donor, was there any contact/relationship with the donor etc)
- **Quality of the relationship** with intending parents and eventual siblings/**perception of the concept of family**
- Perceptions on how **to best promote the interests of donor-conceived persons** (e.g. should donor's identity be disclosed or not and in what conditions?)



# Areas of Inquiry on Donor-Conceived Persons and Children's Right to Identity

- Personal assessment of the **social and psychological support** available to donor conceived persons, **the legal framework around the situation of donor-conceived persons** (e.g. rights of the donor v. rights of the donor conceived persons) etc.
- Questions regarding how **new ARTs change the way we think about children's right to identity** (see Gene Editing, Mitochondrial Replacement Techniques, Ectogenesis, In-Vitro Derived Gametes)



# Qualitative Research: Ethnography of Human Reproduction

- **Interviews with donor-conceived persons** in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, Germany and Austria (countries selected due to their linguistic connection)
- **Not a representative sample** -> individual experiences are collected to generate **research hypotheses** to be tested through quantitative research
- **Interdisciplinary analysis** -> A team of two professors and two researchers who come from the fields of ethnography, social anthropology, sociology and medicine
- Collection of data **by the end of December 2021** -> if you are a German-speaking donor-conceived person and **are interested to participate in the study please contact** Dr. Daniel Drewniak [daniel.drewniak@ibme.uzh.ch](mailto:daniel.drewniak@ibme.uzh.ch)



# Quantitative Research: Data Centre

- Preparing a **nationwide survey in Switzerland** on perceptions around ARTs and **the experience of those using or being conceived through ARTs**; possibly a smaller scale survey in Germany
- Aiming to reach a **representative sample**, but also certain sub-groups such as **same-sex couples, individuals who used different ARTs (e.g. surrogacy) or donor-conceived persons**
- Results by around the **end of 2022**



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attention!**

